

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A series-wired light string that operates on DC current, comprising:

a plurality of miniature light bulbs for the decoration of Christmas trees;

a plurality of light sockets connected in series, each light socket of said plurality of light sockets adapted to receive at least one miniature light bulb of said plurality of miniature light bulbs;

a plurality of voltage-responsive semiconductor shunts, each semiconductor shunt being electrically connected in parallel across a respective light socket to maintain the current passing through the light socket in the event that a light bulb is not illuminated or is missing from the light socket; and

a rectifier connected to the plurality of series-connected light sockets for rectifying an AC supply voltage for DC operation of said series-wired light string.

2. A series-wired light string as recited in claim 1, wherein the rectifier comprises a single diode which operates as a half-wave rectifier.

3. A series-wired light string as recited in claim 1, wherein the rectifier comprises a bridge rectifier for full wave rectification.

4. A series-wired light string as recited in claim 1, wherein each of the voltage-responsive shunts comprises a single Zener diode.